

Middletown Commission on the Arts

Minutes, April 25, 2012

Present

Franca Biales
Cassandra Day (vice-chair)
Richard Kamins
Chelsea Rak (student rep)
Joyce Kirkpatrick
Linda Salafia (council)
Lea Tomaszewski
Jenny Hawkins Lecce (sec.)
Lee Godburn (chair)
Lauren Hodge (student rep)
Barbara Arafah
Charlotte McCoid
Bob Santangelo (council)
Maria Malafronte (student rep 7:28)

Also Present

Stephan Allison, staff

Absent

David Davis
Fran Ganguli

Call to order

Commission Chair Godburn called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. at the Municipal Building, Room 208, Middletown, CT.

Public session: Joyce Kirkpatrick motioned that we hold our public session to accommodate guest schedules. Richard Kamins seconded. Carried.

Public session was held at 7:13 with the arrival of Mayor Drew. The Mayor addressed the commission and shared his enthusiasm for the arts in Middletown. He complimented Coordinator Allison for the work he does and thanked him for his advocacy, and wished to assure the commission that he will continue to see that the city keeps its commitment to the arts. Mayor Drew suggested some new ways to grow our arts community and said that he will be looking to the commission to help develop some new, proactive ways to become an attractive home to young and professional artists. The Mayor said our focus might be defined as along four lines: 1) maintaining the MCA's usual funding/granting processes; 2) adding arts to existing and new city events - for instance, the 4th of July, the motorcycle show, etc.; 3) finding ways to attract young and mid-career artists to move to the city, and; 4) identify and define our cultural assets.

The Mayor's Chief of Staff Joseph Samolis joined the public session at 7:55. Public session closed at 8 p.m.

Minutes from March 28, 2012

Motion to approve by Richard Kamins, second by Jenny Lecce. No discussion. Carried unanimously.

Remarks from the Chair

Commission Chair Godburn skipped the remarks from the chair in view of the evening's work load.

Old Business

Budget Report – no report

Program Update

- a) Arts Stakeholders Group: met 4/25 with the Mayor and 5 commissioners, Quentin Phipps of DBB suggested development of a cultural plan/asset mapping: artists, venues, companies, etc.
- b) Arts & Creative Industries Council, Creative Juice (Chamber of Commerce): ongoing. Meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month.
- c) Website- Arts2Go.org: ongoing. Coordinator to meet with a new designer to correct the programming flaw in the original program writing. Site may need to be re-launched.
- d) Ethics Code: gift limits, no report
- e) MCA 40th: In progress.
- f) MCA Budget- 2012-2013: ongoing. 4/26 is the public hearing to speak on the budget.
- i) Other

Committee Reports

Public Art Committee:

Bill Russo asked if the commission wanted to suggest a person to dedicate a tree at the annual tree planting at Wadsworth and Long Lane, this year at 2 p.m. on 4/27. Patricia Evans was chosen and Joyce Kirkpatrick wrote the piece about Patricia Evans that will be read at the event.

Catalogue: currently seeking graphic design work for the last part of the project, as the last graphic design firm was not working out.

Reception for MHS Senior Art Exhibit will be May 24. Charlotte McCoid is looking for a group of three judges to attend and select the contender for the MCAAAA. Maria Malafronte, being a Mercy student, will contact the art department at Mercy High School about the competition.

Xavier and Vinal will also be notified about the competition. It is open to all Middletown residents in their senior year of high school.

Planning & Projects Committee:

- i) Arts Walk: ongoing.
- ii) Arts Advocacy Award: May 21, 2012 at 5:30 and to run about one hour. Jenny Lecc makes a motion that we access the discretionary funds of up \$150 for the AAA event if needed. Richard Kamins seconded. Carried.

Nominating Committee: Review of Bylaws: ongoing.

Other: (Publicity Committee, Kids Arts Committee, Archive Committee): ongoing. Kids Arts has begun enrolling children for the program. 24 returning counselors and 3 new counselors have been hired for the summer.

New Business

Grant Panel Recommendations:

Selina Yvonne Kearson – recommended \$350.00

Connecticut Ballet – recommended \$2000.00

Mt Olive Church of Christ – recommended \$1000

Trinbago American Cultural Explorers – recommended \$1000.

North End Action Team: Community Music Initiative –recommended \$1000

ArtFarm- recommended \$2000

Artist's Corner/Pierre Sylvain – recommended \$522.00

Woodrow Wilson Middle School – recommended \$1100.
Connecticut Storytelling Center, Inc. – recommended \$1550.

Richard Kamins made the motion that we accept the recommendations, Linda Salafia seconded. Discussion followed. The commission discussed the distribution and came up with a second set of recommendations as follows:

Selina Yvonne Kearson – recommended award \$0
Connecticut Ballet – recommended \$2000.00
Mt Olive Church of Christ – recommended \$1000
Trinbago American Cultural Explorers – recommended \$1000.
North End Action Team: Community Music Initiative –recommended \$1000
ArtFarm- recommended \$2000
Artist's Corner/Pierre Sylvain – recommended \$922.00
Woodrow Wilson Middle School – recommended \$1100.
Connecticut Storytelling Center, Inc. – recommended \$1500.

Richard Kamins motioned that we accept the new recommendations. Linda Salafia seconded. Carried unanimously.

Efficiency Task Force recommendations/admin. ass't. update: no report.

Other: no report

Miscellaneous

Nothing to report.

Adjournment

Joyce Kirkpatrick moved to adjourn at 9:30 p.m., seconded by Commission. The MCA will next meet for its regular monthly meeting on May 23, 2012 in Room 208 of the Municipal Building.

Announcements

"Driving Miss Daisy" at Green Street Arts Center with Caroline Kirsch.

Respectfully submitted
Jenny Hawkins Lecce